

**From:** Tom Sandholm  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/19/02 12:21pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir(s),

I am glad to see that Massachusetts abstained from signing the proposed Microsoft settlement. The original proposal falls far short of providing protection for consumers as well as promoting open and fair competition with computer vendors.

The new proposal will, hopefully, enable fair and open competition for other software vendors, as well as provide the necessary knowledge to software developers and computer programming students at our educational institutions, without imposing heavy licensing fee's for missing, shoddy and often incorrect documentation that Microsoft has sold at outrageous fee's in the past. The requirement of Microsoft to document their products programming interfaces should be placed in public access. I want to point out that most major computer vendors, for example IBM and Sun Microsystems, currently provide programming information for their operating systems, often bundled into the core product, at no additional charge. This practice has enabled other vendors to make their products available across platforms, and not just lock the product into one platform, so typical with Microsoft applications.

Microsoft has intentionally radically changed programming interfaces between product releases, and severely restricted access to programming information to such a degree as to make it cost prohibitive or virtually impossible for 3rd party software developers to make their products available across both Unix and Microsoft platforms.

In consideration of Microsoft's extremely poor implementation of security in their products, I would suggest an additional remedy of requiring a level of computer security exists in all future Microsoft products. I site the numerous security alerts that have been issued from CERT in regards to Microsoft IIS, as well as the office products. The recent release of Microsoft XP has also fallen to severe security holes, thereby leaving consumers quite vulnerable to hackers and identity theft. The security level enforcement could be monitored by an organization such as CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team, <http://www.cert.org>). CERT would require full unlimited access to all of the source code for Microsoft products. This would ensure consumer protection.

In regard to the remedy of Microsoft applications working on other software platforms, I would encourage you to explicitly list the platforms, and not exclude Linux in the list.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely  
Thomas F. Sandholm  
453 Derry Road  
Chester, NH. 03036

